

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 55 703X

December 30, 2010

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

() Notice of Exemption (X) Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on November 30, 2010, for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended 1 environmental condition.

Comments on the EA

OEA received copies of 3 new letters on the EA forwarded by CSX Transportation, Inc. The 3 forwarded letters were from the 1) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and 3) Natural Resources Conservation Service, Darlington County Office.

In a letter dated October 8, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that in its opinion the proposed project would not affect resources currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

In a letter dated October 18, 2010, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers states that since no work would occur with Navigable Water of the United States and would not entail the placement of fill material in wetlands/waters of the United States that a Department of Army permit is not required.

In a letter dated December 5, 2010, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Darlington County Office states that it has 'found no soils are classified as Prime Agricultural Land on that portion' proposed for abandonment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

CSX Transportation, Inc., shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy the single geodetic station marker.

If the above condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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